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Mike Mansfield Foreign Policy Mission

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Mike Mansfield Foreign Policy Mission" (1962). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 478.
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Berlin, Germany
November 8, 1962

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SENATOR MANSFIELD'S FOREIGN POLICY MISSION

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Arrival Statement

My colleagues, Senator Boggs, Senator Pell and Senator Smith and I are delighted to be here. As members of the United States Senate and as such representatives of the American people, we of this mission are pleased to bring the warmest greetings to the people of Berlin. Since we have recently visited the states which we represent, we feel that this greeting is no idle politeness, but a direct assurance of the way Americans feel about Berlin and the people of Berlin. Our Government stands solidly committed to whatever measures are needed to preserve allied rights in Berlin, the sound viability and normal development of West Berlin, and its ties with the Free World. The American people strongly support this firm position of our Government.

A few weeks ago our Congress passed a resolution assuring the President of its full backing for his continued efforts to help bring about a solution of the Berlin problem in keeping with Allied rights and responsibilities and with justice for Berlin itself. In taking this action, we felt that we had the overwhelming approval of those Americans we represent -- all kinds of Americans, in the North, South, East and West.

As you may know, the President has asked us to visit Berlin and other important points and later report on what we have learned about the situations and problems which we may see. Moreover, what the group learns will help us all gain a fuller insight which will in turn help us evaluate developments during the coming months when the next Congress is convened.

It is quite appropriate that Berlin is the first point on our itinerary. We will visit many countries before we return home and each is important in terms of world developments. But it is still appropriate to come to Berlin first for, whatever happens elsewhere, the fate of Berlin is linked with the future of freedom in Europe and throughout the world.